IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. **(Previously Presented)**: A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, one or more of said first plurality of clients and said second plurality of clients being designated as an active speaker, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating said connection as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

(3) receiving, over said connection, a first audio packet from said circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said circuit-switched conferencing server;

(4) receiving, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of audio packets are received asynchronously

(5) forwarding, over said connection, said second audio packet to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

(6) mixing said first audio packet with said second audio packets from the first plurality of clients into a composite packet; and

(7) forwarding said composite packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to said packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

2. **(Withdrawn)**: The method of claim 1, wherein said composite packet is forwarded with echo suppression.

3. **(Previously Presented)**: A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to said packet-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating said connection as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

(3) receiving, over said connection, a first audio packet from said packet-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from

each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of audio packets are received asynchronously

(4) receiving, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said circuit-switched conferencing server;

(5) mixing said first audio packet and said second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

(6) forwarding said one combined audio packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to said circuit-switched conferencing server; and

(7) forwarding, over said connection, said second audio packet to said packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server.

4. **(Previously Presented)**: A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to establish, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing the computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said circuit-switched conferencing server;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to forward said first audio packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to said packet-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of audio packets are received asynchronously

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server.

5. **(Previously Presented)**: A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to establish, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to said packet-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing the computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said packet-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of audio packets are received asynchronously

fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets,

wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to mix said first audio packet and said second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to forward said one combined audio packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to said circuit-switched conferencing server; and

seventh computer readable program code means for causing the computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server.